

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 044186

12

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 DPW-01 PM-09 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ P: STAFF: EB

3/9/73 EXT. 22538

APPROVED BY EA/ P: AHROSEN

----- 015945

R 092328 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 044186

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: US, PFOR

SUBJECT: MARCH 9 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. MOST PAPERS RELEGATE EA NEWS TO INSIDE PAGES.

ALL REPORT US AND DRV ANNOUNCE J. E. C. TO HAVE FIRST MEETING IN PARIS MARCH 15. COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE US AID TO NVN, TRADE AND OTHER COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. NYT NOTES PROJECTED AID HAS BECOME " INTENSELY CONTROVERSIAL, WITH CONGRESSIONAL ASSENT FAR FROM CERTAIN." US DEL TO BE HEADED BY AID' S MAURICE WILLIAMS, DRV DEL BY FINMIN DANG. PLAUSIBLE OPENING WOULD BE PRESENTATION OF DRV AID SHOPPING LIST. SUN' S KEAT NOTES DRV DEL OF NOTICEABLY HIGHER RANK THAN US DEL; WHILE THACH WILL BE ON DRV DEL, HIS COUNTERPART IN ESTABLISHING COMMISSION - SULLIVAN - WILL NOT BE ON US DEL.

2. ALL REPORT GVN RELEASES 499 COMMUNIST POWS (WITH ONE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 044186

DEFECTING AT LAST MOMENT). FEARED EARLIER THAT RELEASE MIGHT BE HELD UP DUE FIGHTING IN QUANG TRI.

3. GVN- PRG AGREE OPEN POL TALKS MARCH 19 AT LA- CELLE- ST.- CLOUD OUTSIDE PARIS (NYT, CSM, CHITRIB).

4. NYT REPORTS FROM SAIGON ICCS " PIGEONHOLES" FIRST FIELD REPORT ON FIGHTING AT GVN- HELD SA HUYNH WHERE COMMUNISTS SOUGHT ESTABLISH SEA ENTRY POINT, SAYING COMMISSION UNABLE AGREE WHETHER COMPLETE INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT.

5. PHINQ REPORTS FROM SAIGON ALLIED INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY HANOI MOVING VAST AMOUNTS TROOPS AND ARMS DOWN HO TRAIL, BUT NO SIGNS OF MAJOR MILITARY FLAREUP IN NEXT 60 DAYS.

6. SPLIT DEVELOPING IN ICCS BETWEEN POLES AND HUNGARIANS -- WHO OPERATE ON ASSUMPTION COMMUNISTS WON WAR AND CAN CLAIM " FRUITS OF VICTORY" -- AND CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS, WHO BELIEVE NEITHER SIDE WON, HENCE NOBODY HAS ANY CLAIMS TO SPOILS. CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT OTHER DELS' REFUSAL INVESTIGATE US- GVN CHARGE OF COMMUNIST MISSILE AT KHE SANH, AS WELL AS THEIR EFFORTS TO SHELVE SA HUYNH INVESTIGATION (SUN).

7. TWENTY- NINE RVN LEGISLATORS, CALLING THEMSELVES " PEOPLE' S SOCIETY" CALL FOR THIRD FORCE ROLE IN SVN POLITICS (AFP, WP).

8. GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN ELABORATES ON DAVIS' EXPULSION, SAYING UPI DISPATCHES DELIBERATELY DISTORTED INFORMATION HE RELEASED IN PRESS BRIEFINGS AND ATTRIBUTED STATEMENTS TO HIM AS SPOKESMAN WHICH HE HAD GIVEN ON BACKGROUND (NYT).

9. DOD SAYS MINE- CLEARING OPS HAVE YET TO TURN UP OR DETONATE ANY MINES. OPS NOW WITHIN SIGHT OF ANCHORAGE IN HAIPHONG' S UPPER SHIP CHANNEL. ALL MINES DROPPED WERE OF TYPE THAT REST ON BOTTOM. FRIEDHEIM SAYS SOME NOW INERT, SOME STILL ACTIVE; SOME MAY HAVE DEACTIVATED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 044186

THEMSELVES (NYT).

10. SCIENTIST WHO WAS FORMERLY PRESIDENTIAL AIDE, ON BEHALF OF FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO DISCLOSE FACTS ON US WEATHER WARFARE EFFORTS IN LAOS, SAYING THIS COULD LEAD TO "TERRIFYING WEAPON" (WP).

11. IN TIMES OF LONDON INTERVIEW, PALME SAYS IT IMPORTANT FOR SWEDEN HAVE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US BUT NOT BY COMPROMISING ITS CONVICTIONS (WP).

12. RADIO HANOI ANNOUNCES CANADA AND DRV DECIDE RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER RETROACTIVE TO FEB. 28 (SUN). PHINQ'S LOUISE LIONE (WHO VISITED HANOI WITH WOMENS' ANTIWAR GROUP) INTERVIEWS MRS. NGUYEN THI NGOC THOA WHO SAYS SHE CAN'T RETURN TO SVN BECAUSE SHE WOULD BE JAILED. SHE CLAIMS 300-400 THOUSAND POL PRISONERS IN SVN (PHINQ).

13. RETURNED POW USAF MAJ. FLESHER SAYS US DIDN'T WIN WAR, AND POWS WERE DIVIDED INTO "SUPERPATRIOTS" AND THOSE WHO SAW NO GAINS IN BOMBING STRATEGY (WP). FLESHER BELIEVES US WAS, BUTTING INTO" VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS, SEES LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TERMS AVAILABLE IN 1969 AND WHAT WAS FINALLY AGREED (NYT). FORMER WARRANT OFFICER HESTAND DESCRIBES TO CHITRIB HOW HE WAS CHAINED FOR TWO YEARS WHILE IN VC CAPTIVITY. MORE THAN HALF US POWS NOW HOME, INCLUDING NAVY COMMANDER STRATTON, WHOSE WIFE BELIEVES HIS FILMED "CONFESSION" OF WAR CRIMES AT POW CAMP PRESS CONFERENCE IN 1967 HAD BEEN STAGED BY POWS TO SHOW "HOW HORRIBLE THEIR TREATMENT WAS" (WP).

14. NYT'S BROWNE REPORTS FROM VIENTIANE US OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLAINED TO RLG MILITARY ABOUT CONTINUING RLG EFFORTS TO PUSH COMMUNISTS BACK FROM POSITIONS LATTER HAVE HELD NEAR THAKHEK FOR YEARS. FRATERNIZING BETWEEN FORMER ENEMIES REPORTED AROUND COUNTRY. RIGHTIST OFFICIAL IN S. LAOS PREDICTS COUP, BUT MOST RLG MILITARY LEADERS KNOW THEIR FORCES WOULD COLLAPSE WITHIN DAYS WITHOUT US SUPPORT - AND US HAS MADE CLEAR ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH MOVE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 044186

15. LATIMES' LESLIE (MARCH 8) IN QUANG NGAI WRITES LENGTHY REPORT ON VISIT TO PRISON WARD, PATIENTS WHICH COME FROM LOCAL PRISON AND INTERROGATION CENTER. THREE PATIENTS SAID THEY HAD BEEN TORTURED. CITES AMERICAN HOSPITAL WORKER AS EXPRESSING BELIEF THAT AT LEAST 90 OF QUANG

NGAI' S DETAINEES ARE CLASSIFIED AS POLITICAL PRISONERS.
CONCLUDES THAT MANY PRISONERS NATION- WIDE WERE
ARRESTED ARBITRARILY, NEVER RECEIVED TRIAL, AND ARE BEING
HELD WITHOUT KNOWING WHEN THEY WILL BE RELEASED. NOTING
THAT QUANG NGAI HAS ALWAYS BEEN NLF STRONGHOLD, SAYS
VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY VILLAGER OUTSIDE PROVINCIAL
CAPITAL TO AVOID AT LEAST FLEETING CONTACTS WITH OTHER
SIDE. ACCORDING PRISONERS, THIS CIRCUMSTANCE ALONE SEEMS
TO HAVE PROVIDED JUSTIFICATION FOR SOME ARRESTS.

16. CROSBY NOYES (STAR- NEWS, MARCH 8) IN SAIGON OBSERVES
CHANGES IN US MISSION IN VN WHOSE LEVERAGE ON GVN IS
DECLINING, AND CHANGES IN ATTITUDE ON BOTH SIDES. SAYS

RELATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN PRESS AND GVN GOING FROM BAD
TO WORSE. IN TREATING CORRESPONDENTS WITH HOSTILITY, VN
IS SURE TO BE ULTIMATE LOSER IN TERMS BADLY NEEDED
SUPPORT FROM US PUBLIC OPINION.

17. NYT BLAMES VN WAR IN PART FOR INFLATION AND UNDER-
MINING DOLLAR IN EDITORIAL PROPOSING COMPROMISE SOLUTION
TO MONETARY CRISIS.

18. NYDN AGREES WITH POW RELEASE
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE044186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF: EB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730326/aaaahola.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EAP
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971121
Subject: MARCH 9 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, US
To: BANGKOK
CINCPAC
FRANCE
PHNOM PENH
SAIGON
VIENTIANE
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005